2,74,003 maunds. The corresponding figures for 1092 were 1,054·33 and 327 acres and 5,93,543 maunds. Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar's factory, which is expected to be completed in the current year, will perceptibly increase the total output. Since the close of 1092, another area of 38·75 acres has been assigned for salt manufacture and the Chief Engineer and the Excise Commissioner have been asked to make a joint report after personal inspection on the question of the extension of salt culture in South Travancore. It is the earnest desire of the Government to make the State as far as possible self-supporting in the matter of its salt supply. A set of draft salt rules under the new Salt Regulation, III of 1088, has been published in the Gazette.

17. **Excise.**—The number of country liquor shops sanctioned to be opened in 1092 was 2,279 or 73 less than the number in 1091, the number actually opened being 2,274. The number of arrack shops within the excise area was 719 against 737 in 1091, giving an average of one shop for every 9·71 square miles and 4,736 inhabitants. The incidence of taxation on country spirits rose from chs. 5-cash 5 to chs. 5-cash 7 per head of population. The rate of duty on cocoanut toddy arrack was raised by as. 10 per proof gallon. The total quantity of foreign liquor imported into the State fell by 5,849 gallons.

18. **Opium, Ganja and Tobacco.**—From the beginning of 1093 the independent shop system has been brought into force in regard to the sale of opium and ganja and arrangements have been made for the sale of these commodities from the taluk treasuries. The tobacco bankshall at Trivandrum has been abolished, since the local merchants were not making any use of it in recent years.

19. **Customs.**—Reference was made in my address last year to the imposition of a duty of Bh. Re. 1-as. 8 per 100 lbs. on the tea exported from Travancore. By an arrangement entered into during the year between the Government of India and the Darbar, all tea sent from Travancore by land to foreign countries was exempted from export duty leviable in British India, provided that such duty had already been paid in Travancore and a certificate to that effect was produced at the British Indian port of export. Tea exported for consumption in British India was exempted from the payment of duty in Travancore. The tentative measure for the abolition of the export duty on timber, fire-wood and charcoal, which had been sanctioned for a period of five years from 1087, was extended for another year.

PROTECTION.

20. **Legislation.**—Two of the important Regulations placed on the statute book since last February are the Travancore Markets Regulation, VII of 1092, and the Travancore Copyright Regulation, VIII of 1092. The former Regulation was passed mainly with a view to regulate the opening of markets in the interests of sanitation as well as the preservation of public peace. The latter Regulation was passed in order to bring the law on copyright into line with the recent British Indian enactment on the subject, the main features of the Regulation being the prolongation of the term of copyright to a period of 50 years, the abolition of the formality of registration, and the extension of copyright to translations and works of art. Among the chief Bills now before the Legislative Council may be mentioned, in addition to the Municipalities Bill and the Chitties Bill to which reference was made in my last address, the Animal Diseases Bill, the Plant Pests Bill, the Revenue Recovery Regulation Amendment Bill, the Survey and Boundaries Bill, and the Land Improvement and Agricultural Loans Bill. It is worthy of note that all these proposed enactments are of direct and immediate concern to the ryot population and that the last of them is undertaken to popularise the system of giving loans to ryots for agricultural purposes including the purchase of seed and manure.

21. **Vacancy in the Council.**—A vacancy will soon arise in the Legislative Council, consequent on the expiry of the term of Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai, who had been returned by the Members of the Trivandrum Division. His Highness the Maha Raja has been pleased to command that the Members of that Division will now meet under the presidency of the Division Peishkar, Trivandrum, to elect a representative whose name will be submitted to His Highness for consideration.

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